

Urban District Council of Newbiggin by the Sea

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1964



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29902952>

To the Chairman and Members of Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1964.

The vital statistics are quite satisfactory. The birth-rate rose from 15.74 per 1,000 in 1963 to 17.17 in 1964, which is slightly less than the rate for England and Wales. The death-rate, at 11.53 per 1,000, was lower than in the previous year and was almost the same as the national rate.

The infantile mortality rate fell from 32.05 per 1,000 live births, to 17.12 which compares quite favourably with the national rate of 20.0

The still-birth rate was considerably higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales but the total number of still births was only four and there were no maternal deaths.

As in 1963, only 2 new cases of tuberculosis were notified and for the fifth consecutive year there was no death from this disease.

There was, unfortunately, an increase of 3 in the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms and the death rate from cancer of the lung was almost as high as the corresponding rate for England and Wales but the total death rate from cancer was still appreciably lower than the national average.

It is pleasing to report that the burn, which formerly flowed over the beach, has now been diverted into the new main sewer and this potential source of infection has been eliminated.

In conclusion I should like to thank Councillors for their continued interest in the work of the Public Health Department and express my appreciation of assistance received from other Departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-Sea.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S. B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector (left 30th September, 1964)	HAROLD S. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector (Appointed 9th November, 1964)	COLIN J. MULLARKEY M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Front Street, Newbiggin-by-Sea.
Telephone	Newbiggin 350
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Residence of Medical Officer	36, Churchburn Drive, Morpeth
Telephone	Morpeth 2519
Residence of Assistant Medical Officer	21, Kendor Grove, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 2647.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1964 population again shows a decrease, this time of 70, to 9,940.

Coal-mining continues to be the .in form of employment but its future in the Urban District appears somewhat uncert in and this may explain the drift away from the town. The fishing industry now employs a very small number of the population and is much less important than formerly.

The existence of two caravan sites, which the Council is determined shall conform with Model Standards, should help to realise the Council's aim of making Newbiggin a recognised holiday resort.

Area in Acres	1,841
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1964	9,940
Rateable Value	£205,730
One Penny Rate Produces	£800
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1964)	3,089

VITAL STATISTICS.

(figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	160	98	62
Illegitimate	9	5	4
	<u>169</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>66</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.00
 Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability
 Factor 1.01) 17.17 (18.4)

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	3	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still)births 23.12 (16.3)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
91	48	43

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 9.15
 Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.26 x Crude Death
 Rate) 11.53 (11.3)
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-
 General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
 births Nil (0.25)

<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	1

All infants per 1,000 live births 17.12 (20.0)
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 18.75
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1

Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000
 live births) 12.5 (13.8)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1

Early Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 1 week per
 1,000 live births) 12.5
 Perinatal Death Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week
 per 1,000 total (live and still) births) 34.68

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1964.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA

Disease	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	43	47.25
Malignant Neoplasms	14	15.38
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	9.89
Total	66	72.52

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1964.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	2	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	7
18. Coronary Disease, angina	11	4
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	2
20. Other Heart Diseases	14	11
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	-	1
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	1	-
24. Bronchitis	4	-
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System .	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases ..	5	5
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34. All other accidents	1	3
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
Total	48	43

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Result	
		Pos.	Neg.
Chest Physician	Sputum for Tuberculosis	1	Not available
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Food Poisoning Organisms	9	15
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Dysentery	1	8

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council ambulances stationed at Ashington, where there are 15 drivers. A 24-hour service is maintained and all vehicles are radio-controlled.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council and nurses are stationed as follows:-

Newbiggin 2
North Seaton . 1

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council and is widely used and much appreciated. The vast majority of those receiving help are old, infirm people and the service enables many of them to remain in their own houses for much longer than would otherwise, in many cases, be possible. Most old folks want to stay in their own homes, and, to them, the service is a boon.

Chiropody Service for Old People.

Regular treatment sessions are held at the County Council's Clinic but the service is organised by the Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee which is, in the first instance, responsible for payment of the difference between the fee paid by the patient and the amount paid to the chiropodist. Re-imbursment of this expenditure is, subsequently, received from the County Council. This service is much appreciated and plays an important part in enabling old people to continue to be mobile.

Meals on Wheels.

It was expected at the end of the year, that this service would become available in the near future

The Senior Citizens Club has, for a number of years provided lunch twice weekly for old people able to go to the club's premises on the Spital Estate. Meals have also been sent out to house-bound old people near by but the aim now is to extend this service using private cars.

Most of the work of the Club, which raises all its own vegetables, is done by the Senior Citizens themselves and this is an excellent example of self-help, giving interest and occupation to those who do the work as well as providing wholesome food and a social centre for those who are served.

----- SECTION C.

Water Supply.

Tynemouth Corporation is the Water Undertaker and the supply, during the year was adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. The average consumption was 28 gallons per head per day.

Sewerage Disposal.

Work on the new main drainage scheme continued throughout the year and by the end of December was 84% completed.

Public Cleansing.

This service is provided by the Council and there are twice weekly collections. The new Dennis Tippax 20 cu.yd. vehicle, which was rendered necessary by the increasing number of houses, was received on 1st December.

Public Conveniences.

Wash-hand basins were installed in the conveniences on the promenade and new W.C. basins in the 'Ladies' section of the Bridge Street conveniences.

Unfortunately, vandalism and nuisance continued and made the maintenance of the buildings in a proper state almost impossible.

Rodent and Insect Control.

The following is a summary of the Annual Return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, showing the work done:-

	L.A.	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
No. of properties	10	3080	472	9
No. of inspections as a result of:-				
a) complaint	-	93	10	-
b) survey	3	-	-	2
c) otherwise	2	-	45	-
No. of infestations	2	93	10	-
No. of properties dealt with by Local Authority	2	93	10	-

Rodent Control.

Major infestation occurred at Blue Holes Tip at the beginning of the year and again at the end.

Constant vigilance is needed as re invasion occurs from the surrounding area.

Insect Control.

<u>Cockroaches</u>	-	Council houses	46	<u>Bed Bugs</u>	-	2
		Other houses	9			

Mosquitoes. Numerous complaints of severe bites being sustained were received. Aedes detritus larvae were found at the Blue Holes and Anopheles Claviger larvae in swampy ground beside the Spital Burn. Spraying and other anti-mosquito measures were carried out at Spital Burn, Blue Holes, Woodside Burnside and Store Farm.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

There are in the district 12 factories in which sections, 1,2,3,4 and 6 of the Act are enforced by the local authority, 11 in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority and 4 others in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority. No defects were found and no defects were referred to, or by, H.M. Inspector.

Caravan Sites.

Newbiggin Moor. The owner of this site failed to comply with a notice requiring the number of caravans to be restricted to the total for which ablution and other facilities were available and, consequently legal proceedings were instituted. The case was heard at the Magistrates' Court, on 18th November, 1964, when the owner pleaded guilty to failing to comply with requirements. Subsequently, work began on the erection of two new toilet blocks.

Sandy Bay. On this site, also, the number of caravans was greater than the facilities justified and, a deputation of Councillors visited the camp and discussed the position with the owners who undertook to carry out improvements. The swimming pool was closed after a sample of water from it proved highly unsatisfactory.

Lyneburn. The land at the north of Newbiggin moor was occupied from time to time by caravans but informal action secured their removal.

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1964.New Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	26
b) By other bodies or persons	5

Closing and Demolition:

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	18
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	2
3. Houses closed, not demolished	4
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	1

Repairs.Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

5. By informal action	1
6. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
7. By local authority in default of owners	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
--	-----

Clearance Programme.

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	5
---	---

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.Discretionary Grants.

No. of separate
houses.

1. Applications submitted to local authority	11
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	11
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£274
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since inception of scheme	170

Standard Grants.

During the
Year

Total to
Date

1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:	18	70
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	12	58
b) Wash hand basin	11	53
c) Hot water supply	12	46
d) Water Closet	12	61
e) Food store	6	29

Local Authority Houses.

1) Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1262
2) Total number of inhabited houses in District	3089

SECTION E.Inspection and Supervision of FoodMeat Inspection.

The slaughter-house owned by the Newbiggin Co-operative Society continued to be the only one in operation, but its facilities were available to other butchers in the town.

All carcasses were inspected in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, although, on a few occasions, the inspection had to be carried out in the retail shops, because butchers had removed meat from the slaughter-house before inspection. Following warnings and reminders to the butchers concerned, that removal without inspection within six hours of slaughtering constituted a contravention of the Regulations, this practice ceased.

The following table shows the Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part:-

	Bovine excl. Calves	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected	559	83	1485	118
All diseases - except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses, some part of organ of which was condemned	81	-	20	9
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	14.49	-	1.38	7.63
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis only.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses some part or organ of which was condemned	1	-	-	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.18	-	-	-

One bovine carcass was found to be affected with cysticercus bovis and was suitably refrigerated before being released for human consumption.

Other Foods.Condemned

Meat	114 tins	Ham	8 lbs.
Fruit	174 tins	Bacon	46 lbs.
Soup	43 tins	Corned beef	33 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Fish	47 tins	Cheese	1 lb.
Vegetables	230 tins	Rice	1 tin
Milk	38 tins	Peanut Butter	8 ozs.
Sago	1 tin	Mint sauce	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Cheese	3 pkts.		

Shops Inspection.

Number of visits 45 Number of letters sent 3

Number of letters complied with 3

Extraneous Articles in Food.

A complaint was received regarding the sale of a loaf which was

found to contain a piece of paper.

No formal action was taken but the baker was given a warning.

Corned Beef.

The outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Aberdeen and the discovery that the source of infection had been a tin of corned beef cooled in unchlorinated river water resulted in a considerable burden of additional work falling on the Health Department. At the request of the Ministry of Health visits had to be paid to all premises handling 6lb. tins of corned beef to see if stocks contained any tins produced in certain establishments in South America during a specified period. None of the suspect tins was discovered in Newbiggin.

At a later date a search had to be made for certain tins of tongue produced at the same establishments. Shortly afterwards, tins of corned beef from another establishment had to be sought as a result of the discovery of a food poisoning organism in a tin examined in Edinburgh.

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type is as follows:-

Grocers and General Dealers	31
Confectioners	10
Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Butchers	9
Bakers	4
Greengrocers	4
Fried Fish Shops	4
Wines and Spirits	2

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, at Walkergate Hospital Newcastle upon Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Measles	4	13	32	33	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	85
Total	4	13	32	33	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	87

Measles.

In the report for 1963, mention was made of the fact that the expected epidemic had followed a rather unusual pattern in that it had virtually subsided within two months and had produced rather less than half the number of cases which might have been expected. It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that Measles again behaved in an unusual way in 1964, when 85 cases were notified, a number greatly in excess of that normally occurring in a year when no epidemic was expected. Out of the total, 48 cases occurred in the month of July.

Food Poisoning.

The two cases of food poisoning occurred in one household but the causative organism was not identified. The suspected vehicle of infection was a tin of sausages but no organism was isolated from portions of sausage sent for bacteriological examination.

Diphtheria.

No case of this disease has occurred since 1950 and there has been no death from this cause during the past 17 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year, 154 pre-school and 10 school children completed the primary course of treatment while 211 pre-school and 105 school children received re-inforcing injections. The normal schedule of immunisation, now, is to give three injections against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus at monthly intervals by the time the child reaches the age of 6 months and a further triple injection at the age of 18 months to 2 years.

Diphtheria Immunisation Cont'd ...

Further re-inforcing injections against diphtheria and tetanus only are given at 5 years and 10 years of age.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1964, the primary course of three doses of oral vaccine was given to 1,406 persons, while 1,869 received a re-inforcing dose and 3 a re-inforcing injection.

These figures apply to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1964.

Age Groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp		Non-Resp		Total	Resp		Non-Resp		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

In 1964, as in 1963, only two cases of tuberculosis were notified, one respiratory and one non-respiratory, and no deaths occurred.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	Nil
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.047 per 1,000
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	Nil
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in in England and Wales	0.006 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1964.

The following table shows the deaths in age-groups resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites.

	Male							Female						
	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	Total
Brain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Oesophagus	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Lung	-	-	1	1	2	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Stomach	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	-	-	1	4	2	-	7	1	1	-	3	1	1	7

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	0.503 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.535 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	0.905 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.674 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	1.408 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.209 per 1,000

